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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001470

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/14/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PBTS](#) [AM](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: HIGH TIME FOR ARMENIAN RECOGNITION OF THE TURKISH BORDER

REF: YEREVAN 434

(U) Classified by DCM Robert Deutsch, E.O. 12958, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Reftel sets forth the Armenian government's non-paper on relations with Turkey. We constantly press the Turks to decouple Turkish-Armenian relations from Nagorno-Karabakh and the occupied territories, and to come to terms honestly with the history of events in 1915.

2. (C) In addition to the Armenian Declaration of Independence's references to "restoring historical justice" and "Western Armenia" (referring to territory in Turkey), Turks also note that Article 13 of the Armenian Constitution requires that Mount Ararat, located in Turkey, be part of the Armenian national coat of arms, together with the coats of arms of the four kingdoms of historical Armenia, much of whose territory is located inside Turkey.

3. (C) Absent explicit recognition of the current border by Armenia, the above references provide ammunition to Turkey to resist reasonable proposals to ease relations. Armenian government statements in reftel that "the reader can judge for himself" whether or not Armenia recognizes the border, and that explicit recognition will have to wait until formal relations are established, only fuel Turkish arguments. An explicit statement of recognition would remove an excuse for Turkey not to move forward.

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